(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Governments policy of strengthening cooperation, mutual understanding and friendly relations with various countries on the basis of India's traditional values and beliefs, is well known.

Government is taking steps to further improve our freindly relations and strengthen cooperation with all our neighbours.

Initiatives have been taken to implement this policy. The first foreign delegation received by Government was headed by the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, and discussions were held in a spirit of trust and cooperation. An invitation has been extended to the Minister of Foreign affairs of Nepal and he is likely to visit India soon.

Transfer of Governors

229. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to transfer the Governors of some of the States; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) and (b) As a matter of convention and because of their constitutional position subjects relating to the appointment, transfer, removal, resignation and conduct etc. of Governors are confidential in nature and are not discussed.

Steps to improve the National Highways

230. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take speedy steps to improve national high ways in the country ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The improvement of the National Highways is a continuous process and is undertaken as an activity of high priority and implemented through the Annual and 5 Year Plans. An expenditure of Rs. 1489 crores for National Highways is anticipated during the 7th Five Year Plan which is about 136 per cent more than during the Sixth Plan. The Working Group on the Roads has recommended a substantial augmentation of plan allocations during the 8th Plan— 5100 km of National Highways are recommended for four laning and 6000 km for widening and strengthening to two lanes. Preliminary discussions have also been held with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for obtaining assistance for the development of National Highways.

इलाहाबाद में यमुना पर रेल पुल की निर्माण योजना

231. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इलाहाबाद यमुना पर रेल पुल की निर्माण योजना की प्रगति क्या है और निर्माण कार्य शुरू करने में क्या रुकावटें हैं और

(ख) राज्य सरकार द्वारा भूमि प्राप्त करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री तथा संचार मंत्री (श्री के० पी० उन्नीकृष्णन): (क) और (ख) इलाहाबाद में यमुना नदी का प्रस्तावित पुल राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर नहीं आता है । राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के साथ उपयुक्त शहरी सम्पर्क के रूप में परियोजना को शुरू करने के लिए नवम्बर, 1986 में सिद्धान्त रूप से सहमति दी गई थी बशर्ते कि राज्य सरकार कुल परियोजना लागत का $\frac{1}{3}$ हिस्सा वहन करे तथा अपनी लागत से ही भूमि अधिग्रहण करे । उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने न तो भूमि प्राप्त की है और न ही परियोजना लागत का $\frac{1}{3}$ हिस्सा वहन करने का वचन दिया है। फिर भी पुल के निर्माण के लिये विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट तैयार कर ली गई है ।

Functioning of telecommunications and telephones system

232. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to set right the deteriorating functions of telecommunications and telephones system in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The telecommunication services have not been deteriorating. Continuous watch is kept on the performance and operation, which is monitored locally as well as centrally.

To improve the operation and maintenance of the services further the following steps are being taken by the Department on a regular basis :

(i) Replacement of worn-out electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic ones;

(ii) Replacement of worn-out telephone instruments by new ones;

(iii) Replacement of fault-prone cables;

(iv) Replacement of heavy overhead alignments by underground cables;

(v) Provision of cable ducts in large cities;

(vi) Provision of more public telephones;

(vii) Customer-oriented training to the staff of the Department;

(viii) Modernisation of telegraph network by installing electronic store-forward message switching systems, electronic teleprinters, electronic key board and other related devices;

(ix) Providing mopeds to telegraph messangers for expediting delivery of telegrams in far flung areas.

दूरभाष सलाहकार समितियों के गठन में विलंब

233. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली, कलकत्ता, मद्रास और बम्बई की दूरभाष सलाहकार समितियों का कार्यकाल समाप्त हो गया है और इन शहरों की दूरभाष सलाहकार समितियों का गठन अभी तक नहीं किया गया है;